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News Release

Providence VA Medical Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Community Health Care Delivery to Begin Under New Contract

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Starting mid-September, health care delivery by community providers to Veterans enrolled with the Providence VA Medical Center system will be under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs contract awarded to Optum Public Sector Solutions, Inc., part of UnitedHealth Group, Inc.

“The new Community Care Network contract awards reflect our ongoing commitment to increasing Veterans’ access to care,” said VA Secretary Robert L. Wilkie, “and were designed based on feedback from Veterans and other stakeholders.”

The new network serves as the direct link between VA and local health care providers, providing a standard contract vehicle for VA to purchase care. Optum will manage the network and process claims for payment to local providers on behalf of VA.

“We’re looking forward to improved care coordination for our Veterans under the new contract, as well as improved timeliness of payments to providers in the communities we serve,” said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VA Medical Center.

TriWest Health Care Alliance has been managing VA’s Community Care Network in the area and will fully transition responsibility to Optum over the next 30 days. Veterans will continue to receive care from their current community providers during the transition. VA community providers contracted by TriWest will not be automatically enrolled in CCN, however, so they will need to sign up with Optum to continue providing services to Veterans under CCN.

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